

the course of forty years experience and from the North American *Xyleborus xylographus* (Say) I have also examined a good number of series among them specimens which served Eichhoff in preparing his description in his *Ratio Tomicinorum*. Although I was carefully searching for any significant differences all my efforts were made in vain. I am personally convinced that in the Holarctic Region we have only one common species for which by priority has to be used Say's name *Xyleborus xylographus* (Say).

***Xyleborus femoratus* Egg. = *Xyleborus curtus* Egg.**

The type of *Xyleborus curtus* Egg. had been compared with two co-types of *Xyleborus femoratus* Egg. studying especially the differences Eggers had given in his key for separating the two species. Although greatest care had been taken the differences mentioned by Eggers are of no taxonomic value and the synonymy seems to be beyond doubt.

THE TENEBRIONID *Diaclina fagi* AS A MEDICINE IN THE ORIENT

The medicinal use of *Diaclina fagi* (Panzer), a species commonly found in stored products in the Orient, came to my attention on receiving specimens for identification from the Philippines. I have scanned the entomological literature concerned with entomophagy and found no mention of this beetle. The brochure in Chinese on the therapeutic uses of the beetle that was sent with the specimens provided much of the information that follows. The beetles are evidently used in many parts of China and Korea, and a transliteration of its Chinese name is yong-chun. The beetle is eaten after it has been fed on those Chinese herb medicines ordinarily used as a tonic. Or, to cure a particular disease, the beetle is fed on the medicines that are usually used to cure that disease. It is claimed that the curative powers of the medicines will thus be increased some tenfold. The recommended dosage is 5 to 7 beetles, chewed slowly, followed by a drink of water, just before bedtime; this dosage can be increased to 10 beetles three times a day. They are said to have a peppery taste. However, the patient is warned against taking too many at one time; this could cause irritation of the nasal passages and tongue. Of the 50 or more diseases against which this beetle is said to be effective, I might mention asthma, arthritis, tuberculosis, bed-wetting, and impotence. In addition, the beetle is used in the manufacture of wine, but not as the principal ingredient. It is an additive, making the wine into a tonic.—T. J. SPILMAN, *Entomology Research Division A.R.S., U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.*